

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A container assembly for storing and dispensing food items and beverages, said assembly comprising:
  - a) a vessel defining a longitudinal axis, a bottom wall, and a continuous side wall extending upwardly from said bottom wall toward a substantially annular rim portion, with said rim portion defining a top opening to an interior of said vessel, and with said rim portion being shaped and dimensioned so as to define a first tongue and groove member; and
  - b) a selectively removable lid member having a perimeter lid portion surrounding a substantially circular central lid portion, said perimeter lid portion engaging said rim portion of said vessel in substantially juxtaposed relation, said central lid portion being in substantially overlying relation with said top opening of said vessel, with said central lid portion defining a lid aperture therethrough for accessing said interior of said vessel, and with said perimeter lid portion of said lid member being shaped and dimensioned so as to define a complementary mating second tongue and groove member that is rotatable with said lid member about said longitudinal axis and relative to said first tongue and groove member of said vessel between a lid secured configuration and a lid releasing configuration, with said lid secured configuration being such that said tongue and groove members fully engage one another so as to prevent longitudinal movement of said lid member relative to said vessel, and with said lid releasing configuration being such that said tongue and groove members are configured with respect to one another so as to permit longitudinal movement of said lid member relative to

said vessel, and such that said lid member is removable from said vessel in said lid releasing configuration.

2. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said assembly further comprises a selectively removable blocking member having a perimeter blocking portion surrounding a central blocking portion, said perimeter blocking portion substantially interposed in juxtaposed relation between said rim portion and said perimeter lid portion of said lid member, and said central blocking portion being in substantially overlying relation with said top opening of said vessel, and substantially interposed in at least partially obstructing relation between said lid aperture and said interior of said vessel, with said blocking member being removable when said lid member is removed from said container assembly.
3. An assembly according to claim 2, wherein said assembly further comprises a selectively removable first partition member engaging an inner wall surface of said interior of said vessel so as to define at least two substantially separate longitudinal compartments within said interior, with said first partition member being substantially interposed between said bottom wall and said central lid portion of said lid member, such that said lid aperture of said central lid portion is selectively and rotatably positionable, with rotation of said lid member in the lid secured configuration, to be in substantially overlying relation with respect to each of said compartments, and with said first partition member being removable through said top opening when said lid member and said blocking member are each respectively removed from said vessel.
4. An assembly according to claim 3, wherein said assembly further comprises a selectively removable second partition member removably engaging said first partition member and said inner wall surface of said vessel so as to together define at least three substantially separate longitudinal compartments within said interior, with said second partition

member also being substantially interposed between said bottom wall and said central lid portion of said lid member, and being removable through said top opening when said lid member and said blocking member are each respectively removed from said vessel.

5. An assembly according to claim 4, wherein said first tongue and groove member of said vessel defines an arcuate track groove and a first release groove, with said arcuate track groove at least partially circumscribing said rim portion of said vessel in substantially transverse relation to said longitudinal axis, and with said first release groove extending substantially upwardly from said arcuate track groove to a rim top portion of said rim portion that is substantially adjacent to said top opening of said vessel, and wherein said complementary mating second tongue and groove member of said lid member comprises a first tongue member extending from said perimeter lid portion, with said first tongue member being shaped and dimensioned to fully engage said arcuate track groove in said lid secured configuration, and being further shaped and dimensioned so as to be aligned with, and removably passable through, said first release groove of said vessel in said lid releasing configuration.
6. An assembly according to claim 5, wherein said arcuate track groove and said first release groove are each respectively shaped in said rim portion in an outer wall surface of said vessel, and wherein said perimeter lid portion further comprises a downwardly directed skirt portion, with said skirt portion having an inner skirt surface, and with said first tongue member extending from said inner skirt surface in a first substantially inward direction.
7. An assembly according to claim 6, wherein said inner wall surface of said interior of said vessel has formed therein a first elongate channel adapted to receive a first lateral edge portion of said first partition member in removably secured relation.

8. An assembly according to claim 7, wherein said inner wall surface of said interior of said vessel has formed therein a second elongate channel adapted to receive a second lateral edge portion of said first partition member in removably secured relation.
9. An assembly according to claim 8, wherein said first elongate channel and said second elongate channel of said inner wall of said vessel are each respectively substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.
10. An assembly according to claim 9, wherein said first elongate channel is in substantially diametrically opposed relation with said second elongate channel relative to said longitudinal axis.
11. An assembly according to one of claims 6 or 10, wherein said first partition member and said second partition member are each respectively substantially planar in cross-section and substantially rectangular in shape, each having a respective upper edge portion and a respective lower edge portion.
12. An assembly according to claim 11, wherein said first partition member and said second partition member are respectively further shaped so as to define a first longitudinal aperture and a second longitudinal aperture respectively therethrough, with said first longitudinal aperture extending from said upper edge portion of said first partition member part way toward its said respective lower edge portion, and with said second longitudinal aperture extending from said lower edge portion of said second partition member part way toward its said respective upper edge portion, such that said first longitudinal aperture is adapted to removably engage said second partition member as aforesaid whilst said second longitudinal aperture is adapted to removably engage said first partition member, such that said at least three substantially separate compartments comprise four substantially separate compartments, with said second partition member being removable from said first partition

member through said top opening when said lid member and said blocking member are each respectively removed from said vessel.

13. An assembly according to claim 12, wherein said perimeter blocking portion of said blocking member is shaped so as to define a first perimeter aperture therethrough, with said first perimeter aperture being aligned with, and permitting passage of, said first tongue member of said lid member, when further aligned with said first release groove of said vessel, in said lid releasing configuration.

14. An assembly according to claim 13, wherein said arcuate track groove of said vessel completely circumscribes said outer wall surface of said vessel, such that said second tongue and groove member together with said lid member is fully rotatable relative to said arcuate track groove of said first tongue and groove member and said vessel.

15. An assembly according to claim 14, wherein said first tongue and groove member further defines a second release groove shaped in said rim portion in said outer wall surface of said vessel and extending substantially upwardly from said arcuate track groove to said rim top portion of said vessel, wherein said second tongue and groove member further comprises a second tongue member extending from said inner skirt surface in a second substantially inward direction, with said second tongue member being shaped and dimensioned to fully engage said arcuate track groove in said lid secured configuration, and wherein said perimeter blocking portion of said blocking member is shaped so as to define a second perimeter aperture therethrough, such that said second tongue member is aligned with, and removably passable through, said second release groove of said vessel and said second perimeter aperture of said blocking member in said lid releasing configuration.

16. An assembly according to claim 15, wherein said blocking member is in sealed and fully obstructed relation with respect

to said interior of said vessel in said lid secured configuration.

17. An assembly according to claim 16, wherein each one of said compartments is of a substantially equal size to each respective other one, wherein said lid aperture of said central lid portion is sized and shaped so as to be rotatably positionable, with rotation of said lid member, in substantially overlying relation with a selected single one of said compartments.

18. An assembly according to claim 16, wherein each one of said compartments is of a substantially equal size to each respective other one, wherein said lid aperture of said central lid portion is sized and shaped so as to be rotatably positionable, with rotation of said lid member, in substantially overlying relation with a selected adjacent two of said compartments.

19. An assembly according to claim 17, wherein said continuous side wall of said vessel is substantially cylindrical in shape, wherein said bottom wall and said blocking member are each respectively substantially planar in cross-section and circular in shape and substantially transverse to said longitudinal axis, wherein said central lid portion is substantially planar in cross-section and substantially transverse to said longitudinal axis, wherein said lid member is substantially circular in shape, and wherein said skirt portion completely circumscribes said perimeter lid portion of said lid member.

20. An assembly according to claim 19, wherein said first release groove and said second release groove are each respectively elongate in shape and substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

21. An assembly according to claim 20, wherein said vessel further comprises a handle member extending outwardly from said vessel.

22. An assembly according to claim 21, wherein with respect to said longitudinal axis, said first tongue member, said first

release groove, and said first perimeter aperture of said blocking member are respectively in substantially diametrically opposed relation with said second tongue member, said second release groove, and said second perimeter aperture of said blocking member, such that, in said lid releasing configuration, each of said first tongue member and said second tongue member is removably passable through either of said first release groove and said first perimeter aperture or said second release groove and said second perimeter aperture of said blocking member.